

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Holy Spirit uses a 3-cent tract

(CONVERSION OF A WITCH DOCTOR)

By Farno L. Green

Recently on a planning trip for the Mississippi Agri-Missions Fellowship, Aubrey Cox and Farno Green from Lincoln County were at the home of missionary Tim Cearley in northeast Zimbabwe. A local church member, Lemon Katsarde, walked into the yard. On inquiry about how Lemon became a Christian, he related that he was digging a well by hand and a tract floated down near his hand. The front of the tract showed a mongoose. The mongoose which hunts cobras has the characteristic of quickly making a 180-degree turn. The front page of the tract said simply in the local Shona language, "Do an about-face from your evil ways." Katsarde stopped digging the well, went home, and that evening read the brief tract containing five verses from Mark, Romans, and 2 Peter.

After studying the tract, Lemon Katsarde asked Christ that night to come into his heart and to direct his

life. The next day he read and explained the tract to his wife and told her how he accepted Christ. She also accepted Christ based on the message in the tract and her husband's witness.

Soon after, Lemon called the people of his village together on the river bank and told them that he had been leading an evil life. He had been a witch doctor. When he learned about God's love, he turned from his old life to Christ. With the villagers watching, he threw his witchcraft paraphernalia into the river.

After the Mississippi visitors heard the testimony from the former witch doctor, Tim Cearley's wife, Charlotte, related that she and her husband had been hurriedly driving through the country in order to make an appointment on time. Husband Tim said, "We have never done this before, but open the window and drop out some tracts." One of the tracts was the one found by Lemon Katsarde. After Lemon and his

wife accepted Christ, they met Cearley.

Lemon Katsarde, the former witch doctor, is now a deacon and a leader in his church, effectively witnessing for Christ. He has a job in town and tithes his income.

The 3-cent tract was printed in the Baptist publishing house in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The publishing house has 14 employees in addition to director Missionary Henry Dueck and his wife. There they translate and print in two languages Sunday School quarterlies, WMU, RA, GA, and other age-group materials, discipleship training, a Bible correspondence course, and millions of tracts.

Hundreds of tracts were passed out while the Mississippians were on the agricultural survey trip planned and led by missionary Ed Moses (whose wife, Missy, is from Columbus, Miss.). Every tract was received enthusiastically and with appreciation.

A number of the people on the streets and in fields asked to buy Bibles which missionaries carry with them.

The people of Zimbabwe observed on the 1,800-mile trip are eager to hear and learn more about the true God and his love for men and women. Mississippi volunteers will have many opportunities to help in spreading the Word in Zimbabwe during the 1992-1994 Mississippi Partnership with Zimbabwe mission.

Green is a mission volunteer worker and deacon in Shady Grove Baptist Church, Lincoln County.



Lemon Katsarde, left, former witch doctor, is pictured with Tim Cearley, missionary.



The printing press room shown here is a part of the Baptist Publishing House in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Mississippians arrive in Zimbabwe

A group of Mississippi Baptists left Sept. 9 for Zimbabwe, to preach a series of revivals across that south African country.

The revival services will be preceded, Sept. 12-14, by a church training conference for local church personnel. Keynote speaker for this conference will be Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The preaching group, along with Causey, includes Jerry Massey, pastor, First Church, Oxford; Tommy Tutor, pastor, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale; Joseph Ratcliff, pastor emeritus, First Church, Collins; Dennis Jones, pastor of State Blvd. Church, Meridian; Rex

Yancey, pastor of First Church, Quitman; J. Roy McComb, pastor of First Church, Columbia; and S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, pastor of First Church, Forest.

Accompanying the group is Hiram Powell of Mendenhall, who has been named as field coordinator for the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership.

Powell and his wife Shirley will return to Zimbabwe in January of 1992 to begin a three-year stint on the field, to handle logistics for the project, helping with travel arrangements and project development.

Hundreds of Mississippi Baptists are expected to travel to Zimbabwe for various mission projects over the three-year course of the partnership.

"Why is Gulfshore so important to our family?"

By Glenn Johnson

Almost three years ago, we discovered that our youngest son, Christopher, had a brain tumor (optic glioma). He had undergone one year of chemotherapy and was facing six weeks of radiation when we made our first trip to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. We all had such a wonderful time that we returned the next two years.

This year, we discovered that Christopher was losing his eyesight. My mother, Leora Johnson, hearing this decided to provide us with a vacation to Disney World in Florida. I hesitantly agreed because I wanted desperately to go back to Gulfshore. I eventually called a family conference (wife Paula, sons William age 10 and Christopher age 5, and daughter, Christina age 7) concerning the matter. To my amazement, I found out the rest of the family felt the same

way, and were very vocal about it.

Why is Gulfshore so important to us? I am presently working a full-time job and attending Blue Mountain College, pursuing my call into the ministry. My wife works 60 hours a week as owner and director of her own child care business. With all of these considerations, plus church work, this leaves very little time for quality time together. Gulfshore helps to provide this. Now more than ever it's important because I have been contacted by our association office here in Lee County to help organize and start a mission church in a nearby community.

When we consider what a vacation is to be for, we must consider all aspects. As Christians, it is ultimately important that our spiritual bodies be refreshed, as well as our physical bodies. This cannot be done properly waiting in long lines on hot concrete

in 110 degree heat. People have remarked to me that they don't want to go and hear a bunch of preaching. Gulfshore is nothing like that. Its only purpose is to give Christian families a place, an "Oasis in the Desert," to get away from a world moving farther and farther from the will of God. Classes and seminars offered during the week help parents to better communicate with each other and understand how to cope with the problems their children face today in an ever increasing fast pace world.

Please understand that it's not like I haven't seen anything or been anywhere else. I have been to Alaska, California, Texas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, lived in Denver, Colorado, and lived in Japan for three years.

I understand that family week next year is to be split between weeks. I am upset at this because the way we have to take our vacations it can't be done

this way. So unless the Families Ministries Division sees fit to change it we will not be able to go next year along with others we have talked to. I urge them to please if there is any way possible to change this. (The change has already been made. Family week at Gulfshore next year will be July 6-9, according to Mose Dangerfield, director, Discipleship Training, MBCB.)

QUESTION: Would I give up a ticket to anywhere in the world if it conflicted with family week?
ANSWER: In a New York minute.

QUESTION: What would I trade for a week at Gulfshore? ANSWER: I would trade a week at Gulfshore for only one thing, the return of my son's health.

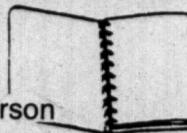
The Johnsons live at Rt. 1, Mooreville, MS.



William, Christopher, and Christina Johnson

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



The warranty has been extended

It's no longer threescore and ten, but man's warranty has been extended to almost fourscore. You learn things like that, hanging around the doctor's waiting room. With a fevered hand and a jaundiced eye, I picked up the May 1991 issue of *Home Life*. This is not to imply that I only read *Home Life* when I'm sick. I've always found it to be extremely timely and interesting.

This article was on the "sandwich" generation. We presently have the highest proportion of aged people we've ever had. Medical technology has helped to advance the age span and we can look forward to more of our grandchildren growing up like olive plants at your knee. We can also look forward to a whole new set of problems.

There will be a greater demand for medical services as more chronic illnesses arise. Extended medical help will become one of life's big needs. Some will become "parents" to their aging parents. Mom and Dad natural-

ly will desire to live in their own houses, and they want to be in control of their lives. However, the *Senile Express* doesn't slow down, and eventually physical and psychological deterioration will bring on a crisis. They need help. Suddenly, it's decision time.

Hard choices will have to be made. Michael Arges, in the Canadian Baptist, urges families to "hasten slowly" and consider all alternatives before institutionalizing an elderly relative. Society and the medical support services are producing ways to help the elderly remain at home. In-home nurses, house-keeping services, day care, and meals on wheels can solve the situation for a season. Eventually it can become more of a task than family or community services can do. It's then that the last-ditch stand must be decided on, and you place the family member in a nursing home. Arges suggests you begin "training" for this months in advance and help the parent realize more than the family

can do is now required.

Either way, you are likely to face resentment, accusation, extreme guilt feelings, plus a washed out gray feeling that someday your children will do it to you. It was at this point the *Home Life* article pointed out some things you will need to know. How will this affect your husband or wife? How will it affect your own children? How will it affect your finances, and how will the decision-making process of the family be affected? You can get "sandwiched" between your children and your parents.

At this juncture in life, you will need your church more than ever. Prayer and daily devotional life will be the oil to keep the machinery going. Your friends will be special as they provide the needed affirmation. Somehow you will muddle through it and the sun will be shining on the other side. Somewhere on this treadmill, seek to read Frank Stagg's book, *The Bible Speaks on Aging*, and read Colossians 3 a few dozen times.



No more dog-gone stories

The picture of the dog, Tippy, in the *Baptist Record* (Sept. 5) may have been a first in journalistic history. Add to this a letter from Millie of White House prominence, and new height in creative chronicling emerges. It also created some unusual suggestions, painful though they may be:

- Can you begin a regular "Dear Tippy" column for lovesick canines?
- Is this a new missionary effort to reach Kennebunkport?

- How 'bout we keep Tippy as editor, and put Henderson on a leash?

Naturally, this was enough to turn your mind toward man's best friend. Recently, our cocker spaniel Honey died, and no sooner was the deceased cold than my wife avowed we would not get another dog. With great per-

susiveness, I reasoned with her, declaring that I had never lived without a dog. "I have lived without a wife," I stated in a logical conclusion. She stated something to the effect that I might have that privilege again. Anyhow, we don't have a dog now. Ecclesiastes 9:4 says a "living dog is better than a dead lion," though presently we have neither one.

Mark Twain clouded history with several famous sayings, like, "If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. That is the principal difference between a dog and a man." Apparently he wrote it right after President Millard Fillmore's dog refused to acknowledge his letter. —GH

Clarke challenges SACS' accreditation withdrawal

Clarke College has filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Eastern Division, against the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) challenging SACS' April 4, 1991 decision to withdraw Clarke's accredited status. SACS based its decision on charges that Clarke failed to comply with standards regarding finances and planning. Withdrawal of accreditation resulted in the termination of all federal financial assistance for the college and its students.

In its lawsuit, Clarke College seeks a finding that SACS acted improperly and in violation of the law in withdrawing Clarke's accreditation. Clarke asserts that during the withdrawal process, SACS violated its own policies and procedures and failed to comply with constitutional guarantees of due process. Clarke also asserts that SACS' decision was arbitrary, unreasonable, and not supported by substantial evidence.

Clarke has also asked the court to issue an injunction which would reinstate accredited status pending a complete and proper rehearing before SACS which is consistent with its legal rights.

According to a news release from the Office of the Dean, "Clarke filed suit to protect the interests of its student body, which numbered nearly 200 last year. The unjustified withdrawal of Clarke's accreditation coupled with the automatic termination of all federal educational benefits for Clarke students has deprived some students of the means to pursue or complete their educations."

Successful outcome in its lawsuit could lead to reinstatement of Clarke's accreditation and resumption of federal assistance. In the meantime, Clarke College continues to hold classes on its Newton campus and has established temporary means to help its students finance their educations pending resolution of the suit.

capsules

GEORGIA LAYOFFS SEND WARNING TO CHAPLAINS IN OTHER STATES: ATLANTA BP — As 56 Georgia chaplains face losing their jobs in state government cutbacks, other states should brace themselves for similar action, chaplaincy advocates warn. "State budget cutbacks across the nation are a big issue during these tight economic times," said Huey Perry, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board chaplaincy division. "Chaplain positions are not recession-proof." Similar action was taken in Maryland about 10 years ago, said Bill Donovan, HMB director of institutional chaplaincy. He noted full-time chaplains were reinstated when Maryland discovered the administrative costs were higher with contract chaplains than with full-time chaplains.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY HIRES ADMINISTRATOR: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Southern Baptist Women in Ministry has named an administrator/editor and announced plans for a fall retreat. Mary Zimmer, a recent graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been named the organization's administrator and editor of *Folio*, its quarterly newsletter. This is a newly created position approved at the organization's annual meeting last June. In addition to her administrative functions, Zimmer will be responsible for networking among more than 800 women ordained to ministry by Southern Baptist churches nationwide. Zimmer announced the Louisville-based organization will hold its first retreat Nov. 7-9 in Nashville, Tenn. Theme for the retreat is "Proclamation: Our Lives as Living Word."

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The Second Front Page

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Soviet events trigger "Green Alert" at FMB

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Communism's crash in the rapidly disintegrating Soviet Union has triggered the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's first "Green Alert" to seize missions opportunities amid social upheaval.

"The upheaval in the Soviet Union has world significance beyond all capacity to describe," Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks and Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener noted in a statement announcing the "Green Alert."

Green Alert procedures adopted by board trustees last June signal response to key world events demanding more than the agency's normal procedures. A Green Alert is determined jointly by the agency's top administrators and trustee officers.

To date, stunning events in the Soviet Union have included the Aug. 19 coup by Kremlin hard-liners; Russian President Boris Yeltsin's bravery in opposing the coup—and its sudden collapse Aug. 22; Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's return to office and dismantling of the Communist Party; and declarations of independence by 10 of the union's 15 republics.

"We need to do as much as we can as quickly as we can," Parks said in an interview. Food shortages and severe economic woes could spawn more upheaval—and perhaps even a regime "that will close things down," he said. "We don't know where it's going. Unless we react immediately, we may not be able to take advantage of some of the opportunities."

Uncertainty over Baptist work in the rapidly crumbling union also fuels the need for urgency, Parks said. "We don't know whether we will be working with one group of Baptists loosely knit together or ultimately with 15 (republic-level) Baptist groups."

Under the Green Alert plans, the Foreign Mission Board can "cut through our normal procedures" and embark on a rapid decision-making process involving money and personnel, Parks said. The Green Alert provides "a remarkable flexibility for an organization of this size."

At key junctures in history, the board must avoid "being too cautious," he said. "If we go through the measured normal process, we can't make funds or personnel available until after next year's budget."

As a first step the board named a seven-member task force to be chaired by Isam Ballenger of Richmond, vice president for FMB work in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Field deputies will be Paul Thibodeaux, associate director for Eastern Europe, based in Vienna, Austria, and Mike Stroope, a humanitarian based in London.

Other task force members are Lewis Myers, vice president of Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptist aid organization based in Richmond; Keith Parker, director of mission work in Europe, based in Zurich, Switzerland; George Lozuk, Southern Baptists' first missionary to the Soviet Union, based in Moscow; and Jim Smith, Southern Baptist missionary in Berlin assigned to Eastern Europe.

The task force will work with Baptist leaders of all the emerging republics to determine urgent needs, such as intensive training of church leaders or desktop publishing for Baptists to produce Christian materials in the midst of the country's turmoil, Parks said.

The task force also will signal ways Southern Baptist missionaries, pastors, teachers, and other volunteers can get involved. And it

will work cooperatively with the Baptist Freedom Fund established by the Baptist World Alliance to aid churches in the Soviet Union.

"It may or may not be an expensive venture," Parks said. "It may be heavily personnel-oriented. Or it may call for dollars up in the millions. We just don't know yet." But it will focus "on our primary purposes" of evangelism and church planting.

Green Alert procedures are an important addition to Foreign Mission Board strategy, Parks said.

Recent rapid-response actions by the board include its Persian Gulf Response Unit, which coordinates ministries initiated in the wake of war in the Mideast to aid Kurdish refugees and others. After the Berlin Wall fell two years ago, the board initiated efforts to expand its mission force in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe from 10 to 100 and to assist Eastern European Baptists in a range of evangelistic projects.

While giving the board a "strike-force capability," the Green Alert procedure also will feed into its longstanding work with Baptist bodies overseas. Many Christian groups "don't have a structure within a country and often go into a project, come out, and that's it," Parks said. "We have a structure—Baptists scattered across the Soviet Union. And we already have career missionaries in place."

The workers include Lozuk and his wife, Veda Rae; Stephen and Marilyn Haines in Kiev; and Danny and Libby Panter in Moscow. A fourth couple, Mel and Nancy Skinner, also has been appointed to the Soviet Union. Fifteen other Southern Baptist aid workers live in three republics.

Toalston writes for FMB.

Noriega still testifies to faith

By Greg Warner

MIAMI (ABP) — Word from Manuel Noriega's prison cell is that the deposed Panamanian dictator and professed born-again Christian is ready to face the U.S. government's charges of drug smuggling.

Jury selection in the celebrated case began Sept. 5 in Miami, where Noriega has been jailed since surrendering to U.S. agents in Panama Jan. 10, 1990. Accused of accepting \$4.6 million in bribes from Colombian drug traffickers, Noriega could be sentenced to 165 years in prison if convicted.

Miami Baptist layman Tony Ponceti, one of the few people who has visited Noriega since his arrest, said he found the general's spirits to be "pretty good" the last time he visited him, Aug. 15.

"He said, 'Tony, I don't know what's going to come from this trial, but I'm ready for whatever comes,'" Ponceti recalled. "He's as strong as we could expect at this point."

According to Ponceti, Noriega is still testifying to his newfound faith. During the visit, Noriega gave Ponceti a statement handwritten in Spanish and signed by the prisoner.

"Every day that passes I find in the Lord the joy necessary to understand that his mercy is infinite and it is poured upon those humans that call to him," the note said, "and that being in the Lord, through the sacred name of Jesus his son, we are more than conquerors, because for God nothing is impossible."

Noriega has spent the last 20 months in an isolation cell at the

Metropolitan Correctional Center outside Miami. He has accepted few visitors and spoken with no reporters since his capture.

Noriega's wife and three daughters visited him for the first time in late August. Wife Felicidad and daughters Sandra Beauchamp and Lorena and Thays Noriega, who have been living in the Dominican Republic since Noriega's arrest, were permitted visas to enter the United States Aug. 21.

Felicidad and at least two of the daughters also have professed faith in Christ in recent months. The family arrived in Miami Aug. 23.

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.

Graham, Haney recognized as Small Church Pastors of Year

By Tim Nicholas

Glenn Graham, pastor of Ridgelea Heights Church, Escatawpa (Jackson Association), and Robert Haney, pastor of Interstate Church, Shaw (Bolivar Association), have been chosen as Mississippi's Outstanding Small Church Pastors of the Year (1990).

The Outstanding Small Church Pastor recognition process is in its fourth year. Recognizing the outstanding work of pastoral leadership in small or single-staff churches (150 members or fewer) serves to focus deserved attention on leadership skills and ministry achievements of pastors and congregations across the Southern Baptist Convention. This year's process began in January 1991 with directors of missions and associational leaders nominating pastors for 1990.

Graham, pastor at Ridgelea Heights since 1988, and Haney, pastor at Interstate since 1981, were nominated to the national recognition process.

The Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board in Nashville chose two state convention recipients as the national recipients who were recognized at Glorieta and Ridgecrest this summer.

Graham and Haney were recognized for this honor at the Bible/Preaching/Administration Conference at Gulfshore on July 26. Graham's wife, Margaret Ellen, and their five children, Allison, Angela, Amada, Abigail, and Autry were present for the conference and presentation. Haney's wife, Karen, joined him



Robert Haney, left, and Glenn Graham hold plaques presented to them as Mississippi's Outstanding Small Church Pastors of the Year.

for the conference and presentation.

Matt Buckles, consultant for small church work for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said, "These men are being recognized for their faithful commitments and noteworthy achievements in pastoral ministries and denominational service. Mississippi has many single-staff pastors deserving of this recognition, but these two men were nominated and chosen."

Ben Yarber, pastor of Canaan Church, Columbus, was chosen as one of two Southern Baptist Convention Outstanding Small Church Pastors of the Year for 1988.

Colonial Heights will host student convention

The 1991 Mississippi Baptist Student Convention will feature a number of seminars designed to help college students deal with many of the issues they are being faced with daily.

The convention, taking place at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, Sept. 27-29, will discuss such topics as "Developing an evangelistic lifestyle;" "Spiritual warfare—understanding how Satan works;" "Dealing with materialism from Christian perspective;" "Can you trust God?;" "Recognizing and dealing with abusive relationships;" and "AIDS."



Featured speaker will be Louie Giglio, a youth speaker from Waco, Texas, and Dwight and Mary Nordstrum, speakers from Chicago. Giglio was the main speaker for this year's Youth Night at the Coliseum in Jackson.

Music leaders will be Mack and Shayla Blake from Ruston, La.



Shayla and Mack Blake

Theme of the weekend meeting will be "Hear and Do," with an interpretation to be performed by Cross Section of Mississippi College.

Scott Marler of the University of Southern Mississippi is state BSU president. The meeting is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Department of Student Work.

August gifts total \$1,691,004

Cooperative Program giving from Mississippi Baptist churches totaled \$1,691,004 according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The board, which forwards church gifts to the various state and SBC agencies, reported that the eight month total for 1991 is \$13,955,196. That is \$99,947 more than that given in the first eight months of 1990.

On a pro rata basis, churches have given to the Cooperative Program \$11,445 or .08% less than that needed to make the total 1991 budget of \$20,949,962.

A total of 37% of all gifts go outside the state to SBC causes worldwide. This means that of the \$13 million given so far this year, \$5,163,422 will go to SBC causes.

Women from two states "act like friends, work as one team"

"You couldn't tell they were from two states, they acted like old friends and worked as one team." Those words are a compliment to how the Mississippi-Illinois partnership took expression this summer.

Three teams, each a mixture of Illinois and Mississippi women, made a difference in three places in two states.

Near Philadelphia, Miss., in late June, 18 women worked at the New Choctaw Indian Association. They coordinated two Backyard Bible Clubs in the Pearl River area, VBS at Hope Indian Baptist Church, shelved and sorted clothes at the Baptist Indian Center, and taught sewing classes at Pearl River Baptist Church.

In early August, a team of 14 women worked with Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago. Mornings were spent in two Backyard Bible Clubs, Bible studies, crafts. A brunch for women included women in the language congregations and the Uptown congregation. The team prepared and served a community meal for 500. An appreciation dinner was given for the entire Uptown Baptist Church staff, volunteer staff, and summer missionaries. Any extra time was spent in high-rise visitation, Bible studies, cleaning, and refurbishing.

The Christian Activities Center in East St. Louis hosted the third partnership team of the summer Aug. 23, Mississippi and Illinois women provided a Back to School event at the Center. This included distributing 500 school supply kits, conducting a carnival, and a yard sale. Crafts and refreshments also were provided.

The three mission teams were coordinated through Woman's Missionary Union in both states.



Mississippi team at Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago, are Opal Graves, Joan Tyler, Jo Ingram, Flossie Lee, and Bobbie Foster.



Joan Tyler, state WMU president, Mississippi, talks to a youngster at Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago.

"Future of WMU, SBC can't be based on past"

By Susan Todd Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Southern Baptists in general and Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in particular must begin operating in a '90s style, not a '50s style, in order to survive, said a leading researcher.

"We find ourselves an aging denomination of aging churches with an aging constituency operating from a set of paradigms that are largely irrelevant to ministry in the '90s," said Carol S. Childress, research and program information consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"It's not that the gospel is irrelevant. It's that the method is irrelevant," she said.

Paradigms are mental filters or parameters within which an organization such as WMU sees the world and then operates, according to Childress.

"In times of rapid changes — the kind we are in now — you can't predict the future simply based on the paradigms of the past," she said.

Childress recently researched "paradigm shifts" within WMU for the organization's top leadership to use in planning.

"One of the common perceptions about WMU is that you are a declining organization — not reaching younger women," she said. "When you look at the data, actually the reverse is true."

Baptist Young Women, the missions organization for Baptist women ages 18-34, has steadily increased in enrollment since the organization's creation in 1971.

Another misperception centers on the total enrollment of WMU. While WMU total enrollment declined in 1990 by 4,476 members, a look at membership over the last 40 years shows the organization's upward trend exactly parallels increases in the Southern Baptist Convention and the nation's population.

"Demography is destiny," Childress said as she explained the losses and gains. "WMU organizations are merely a reflection of who is in the churches. The churches are a reflection of our population."

A closer look at the population reveals:

— Southern Baptists born between 1915 and 1930 have traditionally been "the strongest givers, the strongest proponents of organized religion, the strongest proponents of missions, and have provided a solid base of support both in membership and in giving," she said.

Organizations such as WMU must brace for the loss of these members' influence during the next decade as they die or become unable to be as active as they have been, she said.

— Following them, the group which was born between 1930 and 1940 also will have a marked impact on WMU. The lowest birth rate to occur in the nation from 1915 to 1974 happened between 1930 and 1940. Therefore, fewer people are following the 1915-30 group to take up their role in mission support.

VBS may lead to church for Apaches

By Frank Wm. White

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — With more than 600 participants, Vacation Bible School at a Baptist church on the White Mountain Apache Reservation was one of the largest schools held in Arizona this summer.

Kevin Notz became pastor of White Mountain Apache Church in White River, Ariz., only seven months ago, and Vacation Bible School was one of the first projects he undertook after moving from a church at Many Farms, Ariz., a Navajo Indian reservation.

Church members passed out 1,000 fliers and advertised on the local radio station before sending vans and buses to pick up children for VBS.

With the assistance of a missions team from Edmond, Okla., the church

expected about 300 to attend — not the 604 who arrived. Along with a revival conducted the same week, VBS has provided prospects to keep the church, which has had an average Sunday School attendance of 58, busy for some time, Notz observed.

"It will take us some time to get to them all. We have set up regular visitation during the week to work on the list of prospects," he said.

The revival resulted in 78 professions of faith — nearly matching the normal worship attendance of 90.

Notz also used VBS as an outreach tool at Many Farms, where he was pastor for more than five years.

Usually, VBS participation there totaled about 200. Those prospects helped build the church which started

with two members when Notz arrived and grew to 70 by the time he left earlier this year.

Notz had made a commitment to stay at Many Farms until leadership was raised up from the congregation. Two men recently were licensed to preach, and Notz believed it was time for him to step aside and let them lead the work.

At White Mountain, Notz is following a pastor who retired after 34 years and established a rapport with the people, Notz said.

"The people are hungry for the gospel. They are open to hearing about Christ," he said.

Notz, a 33-year-old Wisconsin native has dark hair and eyes that lead even residents on the reservations to mistake him for an American Indian. That characteristic and his wife Rose, who is Navajo, have helped him work on Indian reservations.

Rose was a Christian when Notz met her and two years after they married he was led to accept Christ by the pastor of an American Indian church in Winslow, Ariz.

"I prayed for two years after that before I was willing to do what God wanted me to," Notz said. That willingness led to Notz and his wife having a shared ministry to American Indians.

"Because she is Navajo, she understands the culture and has a rapport with the women while I work with the men," Notz said.

Because it was through an American Indian ministry that Notz accepted Christ, he believes it is only natural that his ministry is committed there.

White writes for BSSB.

HMB appoints state native

ATLANTA — Mississippi native Rodney Dobbs was appointed as a US-2 missionary by the Home Mission Board, SBC, in August.

A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

Dobbs will be a student worker in Worcester, Mass. A native of Ackerman, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He is a former youth worker and camp counselor.

Doyle writes for WMU.



Old Bible restored

The old pulpit Bible (c. 1886) was restored and rebound by minister of music Joe Clark in time for the 125th Anniversary celebration of First Church, Byhalia. Clark is shown with the Bible, on display in the sanctuary.

39 ISC are assigned to jobs

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has assigned 39 people to work overseas through the International Service Corps. One is from Mississippi.

Thirty are attending an orientation Sept. 6-21 at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The new ISC group includes evangelism workers, bookkeepers, English-language workers, educators, and construction supervisors. Their assignments will last from six months to two years.

Fourteen workers have been assigned to work through Cooperative Services International.

Joan Lynchard: Most recently employed as a teacher for Jackson Public Schools. Current address: 103 Pine Court, Brandon, Miss. 39042. Education: Hinds Community College, A.A. '82; Delta State University, B.S. '84. Church: Parkway, Jackson. Hometown: Jackson. Assigned as an educator for children of Southern Baptist representatives in Jordan for two years.

Graves dies

ALLEN GRAVES DIES IN LOUISVILLE: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Allen W. Graves, retired dean of the School of Christian Education at Southern Seminary, died Sept. 4 at his home in Louisville, Ky., following an extended illness. He was 76. Graves, a native of Rector, Ark., was dean from 1955-69 and from 1976-80 when he retired. Between his Christian education deanships, he served the Louisville seminary as administrative dean, vice president for student affairs, and as the first executive director of Boyce Bible School. He authored five books and was a former president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, the Southeastern Baptist Religious Education Association, and the American Association of Schools of Religious Education. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and six children. Funeral services were Sept. 6 in Southern Seminary's Alumni Chapel.

Moody's nomination: enthusiasm lags

By Greg Warner

(ABP) — Leaders on both sides of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy showed little enthusiasm at news that California pastor Jess Moody will be nominated for SBC president in an effort to heal the growing rift in the denomination.

Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Van Nuys, Calif., confirmed Aug. 28 he has agreed to be nominated for SBC president next June at the request of a group of pastors and others who have not previously been involved in the denominational strife.

Moody said electing a president committed to healing the decade-long denominational division is "the last hope for the Southern Baptist Convention." His backers have been organizing support in several states since May.

"Individual Baptists have to make up their own minds, but I certainly have no heart for this," said John Hewett, moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. "I am not going to spend the next year of my life doing precinct politics trying to take back the Southern Baptist Convention. I'm not interested in that."

Morris Chapman, who was elected to a second term as SBC president in June, said he has not detected any movement away from current convention leadership.

"I believe grass-roots Southern Baptists have spoken and will continue to express a strong affinity for those who take an unequivocal and uncompromising stand for God's Word," said Chapman. He would not say if Moody is such a person.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and the latest in a succession of fundamental-conservative presidents, said he is not aware of "any other potential nominees" for the 1992 election but added he expects there to be some.

"I find it hard to believe there will not be other nominees," he said. "To have more than one nominee is the rule, not the exception."

Asked if Moody's candidacy might

be sufficient, Chapman said, "I think that is left to the conviction of all Southern Baptists."

"I believe strongly in the democratic process, which Southern Baptists have utilized through the years, and I am confident the process will continue to work for Southern Baptists and to God's glory."

Hewett said the moderate-conservative Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has not been asked to support the Moody campaign and added he doesn't expect many Fellowship participants to get involved.

"I don't see the Fellowship buying into this," he said. "That's not the reason we formed the Fellowship."

Moody has no chance of winning the presidency against fundamental-conservative opposition, Hewett said. Nor has there been any evidence of a ground swell of support for a compromise candidate, he added.

"The reason we decided to stop investing our attention in SBC politics is not because we haven't had the right candidate," said Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C.

Several other moderate-conservative leaders said they will not get involved in the Moody campaign and predicted Moody will be defeated. But they said the Fellowship will be ready to receive those Southern Baptists who are discouraged by this latest political effort.

Hewett predicted "the exodus" from traditional Southern Baptist involvement will continue as more people realize "the takeover has been accomplished."

"As the fundamentalists tighten the screws," he said, "the people who leave the SBC in the next few years are going to be more wounded than those who have already left."

As for Moody's suggestion that the Fellowship disband if he wins, Hewett said, "That would require a vote of the members of the Fellowship. I have no comment on that."

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.

The secret world of prayer

By Howard H. Williams

In the book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, C. S. Lewis tells a wonderful story of a little girl whose name is Lucy. Lucy was playing hide-and-seek with her friends in an old house in London. It was her turn to hide when she happened upon an old wardrobe. Climbing into the wardrobe she began pushing the clothes aside and making her way to the back of it. Moving further and further in, she thought to herself that it was certainly a big wardrobe. Finally, she finds herself, not in a wardrobe, but in a grove of trees with the soft touch of snowflakes on her cheeks. She had entered into a whole new world! She had entered into a world where she would enjoy the companionship of a king, do battle with the enemy, and fight for her trusted friends.

That same experience is available for the Christian. In Matthew 6 Jesus tells us, "Go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, . . ." In doing so, aren't we entering as Lucy did, another world? Lucy was in the wardrobe but at the same time, not. When we enter our closet to pray, it is the only place where we become part of two worlds. We are there by our beds or desks, but not, for we have entered into the holy of holies. That is the miracle of prayer, at least in part. We are able to have communion with the Father, to enter the holy of holies, the very presence of our Creator. We have the privilege of companionship with our King.

It is there also that battles are won, for ourselves and for others. We go to our Father so that we might give him our adoration and worship, but also to give him our anxieties and fears. We give him our helplessness and loneliness. We can also bring to him those we love that they, too, might experience the joy and victory that only comes from being present in another world. A world where grace and love are the instruments of peace, not power and greed.

In the story, this new world almost becomes addictive for Lucy. So much so, that she returns again and again, sharing with her friends the secrets that lie within the wardrobe. Perhaps it is time that we rediscover the blessings of going to our Father in secret and the privilege of sharing those blessings with others.

Williams is associate pastor, Northside Church, Clinton.

Thursday, September 12, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Names in the news



A retirement recognition was included in Aug. 25 services at Calvary Church, West Point. Mrs. Kathryn Moore was honored for 28 years of secretarial service for the church. She was presented a picture album containing letters from the church family, former staff, and friends. The album also contained a love offering from the church. Present for the celebration were her three children and their families. Pictured with Mrs. Moore is her pastor, Walter Frederick.



Highland Church, Crystal Springs, recently ordained Terry Dent to the ministry. Dent is pastor of Victory Church, a mission church in inner city New Orleans. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary, and a school teacher. He has also served as music director for several Mississippi churches, and as journeyman to South Africa. Dent, center, is pictured with Vann Windom, left, Highland pastor; and brother Don Dent, career missionary to Indonesia, who delivered the charge to the candidate.

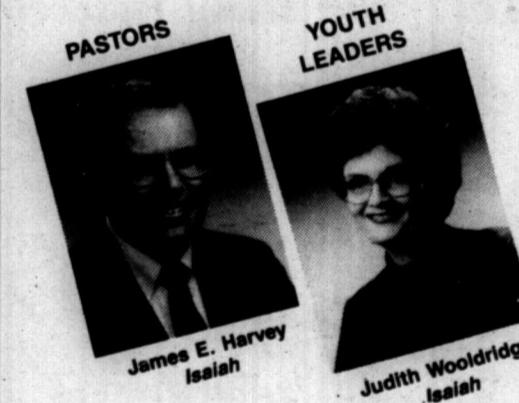


Glenn E. Bien, former missionary to Bangladesh, accepted the call from Byhalia's First Church to become pastor. He, wife Patricia, and children Emily and Nathan moved on the field in time to celebrate the church's 125th anniversary Aug. 25.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

PREVIEW CLINIC
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Baptist Building

This clinic is for individuals who plan to teach January Bible Study.

Parking available at FBC, Jackson, north parking lot.

BAPTIST BOOK STORE will be present.

Pre-Registration is required.
Please respond no later than Sept. 25.

Registration Form

Name _____ Telephone _____

City _____

Enclosed is my \$5.00 registration fee which includes lunch and materials (Book not included). Make checks payable to Sunday School Department, MBCB, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE



Pen Pal Club

Hello Hi,
Hey! My name is Riley Strickland. I am in 5th grade. I would like a pen pal — a boy. I enjoy collecting stamps, bike riding, basketball, football, and swimming. Please write me at my address: Riley Strickland, Post Office Box 185, Georgetown, MS 39078

Hello,
Hey, my name is Jason Dickerson. I am in 6th grade. My interests are stamp collecting, baseball, basketball, and band. I would like a pen pal, boy or girl. Please write at my address. It is Jason Dickerson, P. O. Box 77, Georgetown, MS 39078

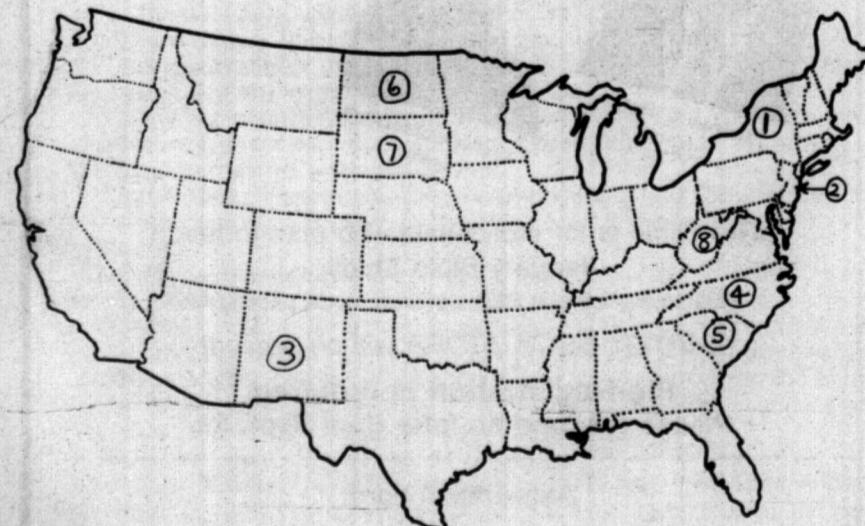
Hey dude or dudette,
I would like a pen pal. My hobbies are playing baseball, bike riding, football, and basketball. Write me back. My name is Brad Allen. My address is: General Delivery, Georgetown, MS 39078

Hello,
Hey, dude! I'm in Webelos, and I would like a pen pal. I'm interested in baseball and football. Please write me back. My name is Daniel Rials.
Rt. 1, Box 70
Georgetown, MS 39078

GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers)

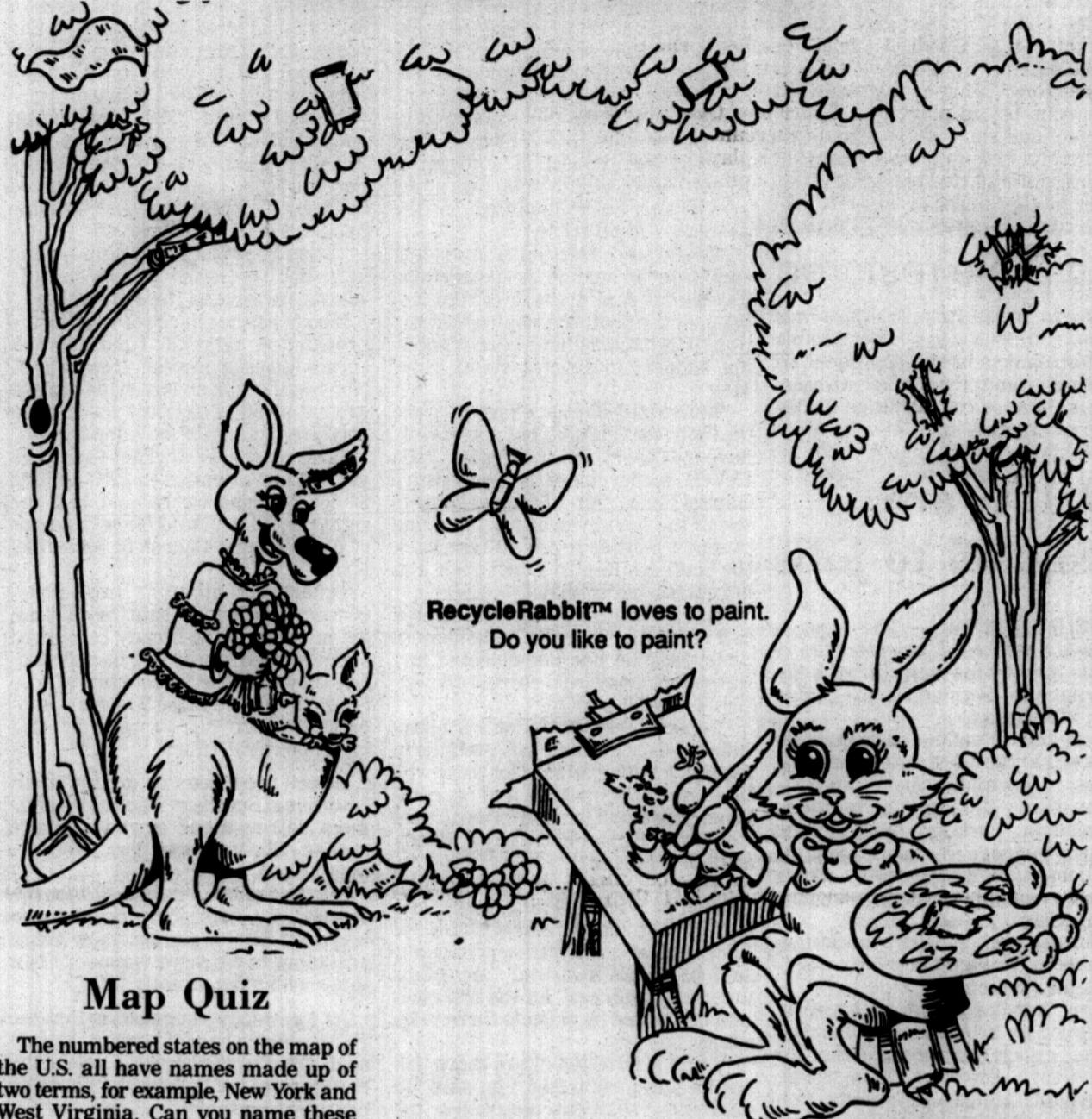
Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



Answers: 1. New York; 2. New Jersey; 3. New Mexico; 4. North Carolina; 5. South Carolina; 6. North Dakota; 7. South Dakota; 8. West Virginia

KIDS! Find and circle the **HIDDEN PICTURES** of items which can be recycled! Can you find the drinking glass, 2 sheets of paper, 2 rolled newspapers, 3 soda cans, 1 open can, 2 milk jugs, 4 glass bottles, 1 cereal box, 3 plastic bottles?



Map Quiz

The numbered states on the map of the U.S. all have names made up of two terms, for example, New York and West Virginia. Can you name these states?

1. _____ This state touches both the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. It is known as the "Empire State."
2. _____ This state was one of the 13 original colonies. It is known as the "Garden State."
3. _____ This state, one of the "mountain states" of the Southwest, was first settled by the Spanish. Its capital is Santa Fe.
4. _____ This south Atlantic state bordering Virginia on the north was one of the original 13 colonies. Its capital is Raleigh.
5. _____ This state bordering Georgia on the south was also one of the 13 original colonies. Its capital is Columbia.
6. _____ This west north central state borders on Canada. Its capital is Bismarck.
7. _____ The Black Hills and Mt. Rushmore (with the faces of four presidents carved on it) are located in this state. Its capital is Pierre.
8. _____ This state was originally part of Virginia. It broke away during the Civil War to fight on the side of the Union.

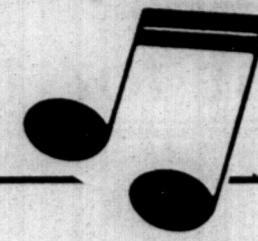


Pike Association, WMU sponsored an associational Children's Day Camp this summer for grades 1-6, with Bible study, songs and crafts, at Friendship Church. Attendance for two days was 106. Pictured are three of the classes in progress, with leaders Gary Sloan, pastor of Unity Church, and his wife, Sharon.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Zoe Yates: "Mount Olive's music"

Zoe Mixon Yates of Mount Olive: At 91, is she the oldest church organist in the state? As Editor A. L. Goodrich used to say, "You'd better not guess. You might guess wrong!" However, I can't believe anyone began playing the piano younger than she.

At age 2½, she climbed up on the piano stool one night and started playing "Dixie." Her mother and dad, in the kitchen cooking supper, were shocked. "George, she's playing!" her mother said. And the couple grabbed the lamp and rushed into the dark living room to prove to themselves they had a prodigy.

No wonder music was in her blood. Her grandmother, daughter of a French marquis, studied music in Paris before she moved to New Orleans in 1849 to open a beauty studio and health shop, and to continue her music. Two of Zoe's uncles sang with the French Opera Chorus. Her mother, a piano teacher, could play any instrument she chose. Her sister, Olga, later taught piano and organ. From the time she was born at Ossyka, on July 8, 1900, and named Zoe for an aunt in Paris, she'd gone (at first on a pillow) to Sunday School and to piano lessons her mother taught.

"My dad was a Presbyterian," she said. "My mother was an Episcopalian." (Her French grandmother had been a Catholic.) "I went to a Methodist college, and I married a Baptist!"

After her high school days at Fernwood and music study at Whitworth College, she began teaching music in

1919 at Columbia Training School. That's where she met Fred Yates, a fellow employee who'd just gotten out of the Army after World War I. They married June 18, 1924, and moved in 1929 to Mount Olive, where he went into the mercantile business. Since the 1940s she's played piano and/or organ at First Baptist Church, Mount Olive.

Next to music, reading has dominated her life. Though she began piano lessons at age 4, she could play not only by music, but also by ear. This came in handy when she had to practice piano, but wanted to keep reading. "I didn't need the music to play," she recalled, "so I'd take a book with me. I'd be playing away and in a little while Mother would say, 'Zoe, have you got your nose in a book?'"

From her earliest years, she heard and played the classics.

It sounds as if she has a photographic memory. "I never forget the words or music of hymns, once I have heard them," she said. In her Bible reading, she has memorized portions of many chapters. "I love the 19th Psalm," she said, "and the 100th — the 12th chapter of Romans, the 12th chapter of Hebrews, Job 19, all of Isaiah . . . Nights I can't sleep I like to go over these—and others—in my mind."

As a young woman, she was offered opportunities to play professionally in many places. But she said she has loved living in a small town. There her music has enriched the lives of many.

For 27 years, she taught public school music and then continued

private music lessons until 1976. This kept her in touch with the young people and children she loves. She has played for dozens of talent shows, class days, and graduation ceremonies. Once she played piano for a junior-senior banquet propped up on pillows, hidden behind a screen, burning with fever from flu. "I had all the music in my head," she said. "Nobody else did, so I had to play!" Give her a list of song titles (no music) and she can play for two hours without stopping.

Besides that, she has played for hundreds of weddings, funerals, choirs, solos, quartets — you name it. She is active in the music club. At church she still plays for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and worship services Sunday mornings and nights. She directs a men's quartet (Zoe's Boys) and a singing group of seven women (Zoe's Girls). She's teaching a group of 11-year-olds to sing — "I'm trying to teach them harmony," she said.

As for children, she had two of her own, plus three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Her son, Fred Jr., joined the two of us for a conversation on her cool front porch at 209 Main St., Mount Olive. He said he has retired from his job with the post office. (During World War II he was in the Marines.) Now he's chairman of deacons and the new Sunday School director at First Church, Mount Olive, Donald O'Quinn, pastor. His brother, Bill, a graduate of Ole Miss, died in the Korean War at age 23.



Zoe Yates

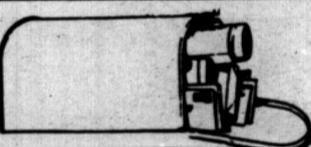
Bill's handsome portrait hangs over the mantle in Zoe's living room. "The furniture was my grandmother's," she said. I'd heard the sofa and chairs once occupied the house in which the Louisiana Purchase was signed. Also the antique wicker furniture in the den she said had been her grandmother's.

"I don't like modern things," she added. "I don't have a washing machine. I like to hang my sheets in the outdoors." She used to send her

laundry out, until her husband's death in 1960. With just herself, though, the number of sheets and towels was small, and easy for her to do.

I could tell she likes flowers, for I saw them growing in pots on her porch and in arrangements and paintings indoors.

We stood beside her beautiful rosewood grand piano. "I dedicated my talent to the Lord," she said. "No matter what type of music I am playing, it is dedicated to him."



Letters to the editor

Need pastors' pictures

Editor:

We are trying to locate former pastors or some of their descendants in an effort to obtain their pictures for our church history.

The pastors we don't have are: Shadrack Coaker — 1828; W. Clark — 1850; S. W. Bullock — 1858; C. Magee — 1862; R. J. Boon — 1877; J. R. Chandler — 1879; J. M. Ritchey — 1884; J. M. Cook — 1892; J. L. Price — 1898; W. R. Johnson — 1911; A. S. Newman — 1929; H. C. Price — 1930; D. W. Nix — 1944; O. E. Thompson — 1959; Jimmy Hipp — 1961; S. R. Pruden — 1976.

If anyone knows where we may get in touch with any of the mentioned pastors or their descendants, please contact us.

Ruby M. Pray
Route 1, Box 77
Summit, MS 39666

Few Southern Baptists know Mormonism

Editor:

I agree with Robert McKay, associate editor of *The Evangel*, the publication of Utah Missions, which is a ministry directed at Mormonism and its horrible false doctrine, when he advises against the SBC in Salt Lake City in 1998.

Few Southern Baptists seem to have any knowledge of the origins and beliefs of Mormons or few, that is, with whom I have conversed.

A few years ago in one Southern Baptist Church here in Jackson, there was a certain lady in our Sunday School class who was a world traveler. This lady was considered by all to be so knowledgeable in the Bible and in church doctrine; in any deviation from church doctrine. One Sunday this woman rather abruptly said, "I become furious when I hear anyone speak or say anything against the Mormon religion for they are Christians just like we are."

So any Southern Baptist lay members who attend the convention in Salt Lake City and mix and mingle with the citizenry of the area may be just like the above mentioned lady, and accept Mormons as "Christians, too," and listen appreciatively to some of the Mormon ridiculous untruths. For, indeed, their young missionaries can be most appealing, so kind, so clean, and they entwine their doctrine so skillfully with teachings in the true Bible, which they profess to read, but which is most doubtful that they do.

M. M. Young
Jackson

Friends work together

Editor:

The Hopewell Church, Rt. 2, Lake, Mississippi, would like to express sincere gratitude of "Thanks" to the First Church, Lake, for the donation of 40 Baptist hymnals. When Christian friends work together for the Lord, all things work for his honor and glory.

Mrs. Lloyd Gatewood, Clerk
Hopewell Church
Lake

Do we need two press agencies?

Editor:

I feel there needs to be a bit of explanation in relationship to your fine editorial in the Aug. 29 issue concerning the new ethics agency. I will not debate the issue of whether or not we need two ethics agencies. My concern is the question of whether or not Southern Baptists need two news agencies.

The obvious answer is, evidently so. At least 25 years ago, while attending a Baptist Press meeting, I was struck by the awareness that the Baptist Press system, as fine as it was, had a critical weakness at one highly important point. The weakness was that its bureaus were staffed by agency personnel who were being asked to write about their own agencies.

My feeling 25 years ago was that we needed an independent news agency completely accountable to the state papers, but there was no money among the state papers to finance such an operation. What we had was all that we could have, and it served very well until July 17, 1990.

Shortly after the state papers had caused the initiation of Baptist Press in 1946, it was moved from the Sunday School Board to the Executive Committee so that an agency would not be housing and paying for the news service. It was felt that all Southern Baptists would be financing Baptist Press through the Cooperative Program.

Of course, on July 17, 1990, the weakness allowed the roof over Bap-

tist Press to collapse. The Executive Committee had begun to feel that it owned Baptist Press; and it demonstrated its ownership by firing the director and the news director, both of whom the state papers appreciated.

Baptist Press became the "official" news agency of the Executive Committee. And anytime the word "official" is added to a news operation, it is no longer able to function as an objective news agency.

Therefore, on the afternoon of July 17, 1990, Associated Baptist Press was conceived as an independent agency, not as an alternative to Baptist Press but out of necessity.

Do we need two press agencies? Evidently so. We do need an "official" news agency, for there is a great deal of official news that needs to be published. We also need an independent news agency, because there is a lot of news that Baptists need that they wouldn't get otherwise. As your editorial correctly pointed out, Baptists "do need good, solid information to make good, solid decisions."

Associated Baptist Press believes this. It is neither fundamentalist, conservative, liberal, nor moderate. It is news, completely funded by independent sources.

Don McGregor
Brandon

Buchanans retire from BookLink

Editor:

I am writing this letter in regard to

the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Hal Buchanan with BookLink. As with any ministry they commit themselves to, Hal and Dot have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into this work. This, of course, is their nature. They are a wonderful, Christian couple and serve in our church in many capacities. Hal has kept us constantly aware of what BookLink does, the need in Third World countries, and has been vigorous in soliciting material to send overseas.

The Buchanans have shipped eight tons of books in 362 shipments, containing 396 of books to 50 countries and six states. The main motive in this type of ministry has been to be the link between missionaries, seminaries, and national pastors in countries around the world. This work is wholly supportive of both the Home and Foreign Mission boards in all of their mission endeavors. The Buchanans will be retiring from this work on December 31.

BookLink is a ministry that the Buchanans have been very much identified with for sometime. I would mention at the same time that they have both been CWT equippers. Hal has continually served as a deacon, Dot is a leader in our WMU, and they are involved in all phases of the life of our church family. I know them as totally consecrated to Christ.

John G. Armistead, pastor
Calvary Church, Tupelo

Just for the Record



For the seventh year, Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, has sent a mission team to do renovation work on Calvary Baptist Church, New Salisbury, Indiana. From July 5-12, team members hung sheetrock, replaced light fixtures, added floor and wall outlets, and hung chair railing in the sanctuary. They also painted the sanctuary and church offices. Bob Williams is pastor of Calvary. Team members pictured are: bottom row, left to right, Neil Harbour, Mary Nell Carpenter, Jackie Roberts, David Roberts; middle row, Dora Miles, Vester Miles, W. T. "Sonny" Carpenter, Grover Glenn, pastor of Arkadelphia; top row, Stanley Frazier, Peggy Frazier, Hal Harbour, and Wayne Mayfield.



Macedonia Church, Petal, recently recognized its GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends with the theme, "The Light of the World is Jesus." GAs receiving badges were, top photo, left to right: first row, Amy Hicks, Elizabeth Baylis; second row, Beth Bullock, Ashley Smith; third row, Freda Kirkland, Julie Defatta, Holly McGregor, Amanda Meadows; fourth row, GA director Melinda McGregor, GA leader Peggy Defatta, Rebecca Petty, Dana Bolling, Amy Smith, GA leader Gloria Hicks, and Mandy Baylis. Not pictured are Courtney Goodwin, Jennifer Harris, and Alisha Lee. GA leaders not pictured are Paula Meadows and Kim Aultman.

Macedonia RAs recognized were, middle photo: first row, Drew Hicks, Casey Cross, Jeremy Bolling, Clay Palmer; second row, Curtis Reed, Lee Bolling, Russell Palmer, and Russ Rainey.

Macedonia Mission Friends recognized were, bottom photo, left to right: Arin Bolling, Meagan Lee, Eric McGregor, Matt Rainey, and Joseph Yawn.

Churches adopt expanded annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Aug. 8 issue of the Baptist Record: Hinds-Madison: Bethesda; Pearl River: Hillcrest; Pike: Immanuel; and Yazoo: Calvary.

Gulf Coast will host Evangelism Conference

Gulf Coast Association will sponsor an Evangelism Conference Sept. 16 and 17. The meetings will be at First Church of Lyman and begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

Featured on Monday evening will be Randy Davis, pastor of First Church of Vancleave and Dwight Smith, pastor of West Ellisville Church, Ellisville. Directing the music will be Ed Lacey, music evangelist from Mobile.

Tuesday evening will feature Gary Berry, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, and Don Wilton, professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary. Leading the music will be Ed Keyes, minister of music at Cottage Hill Church in Mobile.

For additional information, call 832-4311.

Childress retires from pastorate

Frank Childress has retired from the pastorate after 38½ years as pastor of churches in Mississippi and Alabama. These included Half Mile in Leflore County; Friendship West in Tallahatchie County; Bethel in Sunflower; Clarkson in Webster; Pleasant Ridge in Chickasaw; and New Montpelier in Clay County.

Childress has resigned at New Montpelier after 13½ years as pastor.

He is available for supply and can be reached at Rt. 1, Box 226A, Woodland, MS 39776 (Phone 456-3979).

New books

For His Glory by Carl Cooper (Vantage Press, 226 pp., \$14.95). A persuasive guide to Christian living, based on the nature, meaning, and significance of the glory of God. Written by a former coach and school superintendent now living in Grenada.

Of Skies and Seas by Joanne E. DeJonge (Eerdmans, 132 pp., \$7.95). An uncommon look at the commonplace of creation. A wealth of little-known facts about birds, water creatures, our galaxy, and God's hand as seen in all of it.

Boyce reopens Indiana center despite earlier dispute

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Boyce Bible School has resumed operations in Indiana, more than one year after the school's Indiana campus was closed due to a dispute with the state convention executive director.

Boyce, an arm of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., operates 18 centers in 10 states to provide ministerial training for people without college degrees.

Boyce's eight-year venture in Indiana was closed in May 1990 as the result of a dispute between seminary administrators and Mark Coppenger, who was then executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. Coppenger has since left Indiana to become vice president for public relations with the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn.

After private discussions between Coppenger and Southern's then-provost Willis Bennett, Coppenger

Staff changes

Harmony Church, Lincoln Association, has called Dewey Smith as pastor. The church recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for its new sanctuary.

Ruth Church, Lincoln Association, has called Chad Moak as minister of music.

Bethel Church, Monticello, has called Paul E. Smith of Tylertown as pastor. A native of Birmingham, Ala., Smith previously served at Knoxo Church, Tylertown. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary, and will receive his doctoral degree in 1992.

Harland Creek Church, Holmes County, has called Roger Richardson as pastor; the church ordained him to the gospel ministry on Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. His former pastor, Ken Alford, of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, brought the ordination message and prayer. Jay Richardson read the ordination scripture; Gene Richardson, brother of Roger, gave the charge to the church. Richardson and his wife, Sheila, have a son, Roger Jr.

Victor Bonner, Columbus, Lowndes Association, has accepted the call as pastor of the Stone Memorial Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Bonner was pastor of New Hope Church, Columbus, and preached the first message of the first Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1986. He also served as moderator of Lowndes Association and as chairman of the Golden Triangle mission committee.

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Youth Ministers Conference is set for Lake Tiak O'Khata

The annual Youth Ministers' Conference will take place Oct. 21-23, at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville with Richard Ross and Billy Beacham.

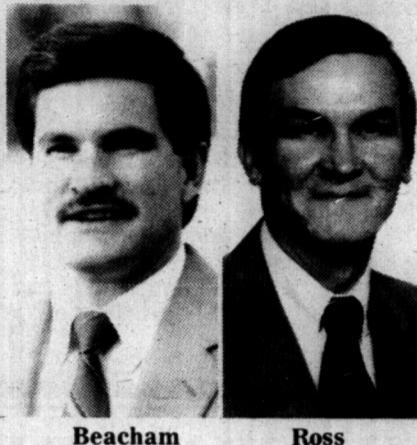
Ross is youth ministry consultant with the Sunday School Board and Beacham is president of Student Discipleship Ministries in Fort Worth.

Devotional leader for the conference will be Russ Barksdale, pastor of First Church, Carthage. Martin Bell of Jackson will lead the music.

There will be small group sessions for those from large churches with Beacham and for those from small churches with Ross. And there will be discussion sessions for wives of youth ministers.

For accommodations call Lake Tiak O'Khata at 773-7853. For pro-

gram registration, write the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.



Beacham

Ross

Revival dates

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: Sept. 15-18; Sunday services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Bob Self, pastor, First Church, Brookhaven, evangelist; Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, music; Gregg Potts, pastor.

First Church, Batesville: Sept. 13-15; B. Gray Allison, president and professor of evangelism at Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Clyde Cranford from West Memphis, Ark., music evangelist; Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sat., 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Terry Williams, pastor.

Coldwater, Byhalia (Marshall): Sept. 15-18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; P. J. Scott, pastor, First, Olive Branch, evangelist; Todd Buck, minister of music, First, Olive Branch, music; Millard L. Swinney, pastor.

Salem, DeKalb (Kemper): Sept. 20-22; Sun. morning worship with fellowship following; 7 p.m. nightly; Ron Gilstrap, pastor, Calvary Church, Newton, guest speaker; John A. Miller, interim pastor.

First, Houlka (Chickasaw): Sept. 15-18; regular Sun. services; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sonny Kelly, FBC, Derma, evangelist; Don Buchanan, FBC, Houlka, music; Rick Burton, pastor.

Bethel, Columbus: Sept. 15-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Thomas, Emmanuel Church, Lafayette, La., evangelist; Andy Cummings, Mt. Vernon, Columbus, music; David Brooks, pastor.

Crestview, Petal (Lebanon): Sept. 15-20; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy Dean, pastor, Liberty Church, Chelsea, Ala., evangelist; Randy Harless, New Augusta, music.

Arkadelphia (Lauderdale): Sept. 22-25; Ken Rhodes, director of missions, Pearl River Association, evangelist; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Grover Glenn, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): Sept. 22-25; James Spencer, evangelist; Everett Sollie, music evangelist; Michael Glenn, pastor; J. B. (Buddy) McElroy, minister of music.

Oloh, Sumrall (Lamar): Sept. 15-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Ryan Whitley, S. 28th Ave., Hattiesburg, evangelist; Larry Burden, music; Jipper Williford, interim pastor.

First, Flowood: Sept. 15-18; services Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with dinner on the grounds; during the week, 7:30 p.m.; David Rives, Newton, evangelist; E. C. Harpe, Richland, music; G. R. "Ricky" Gray, pastor.

Wildwood, Tupelo (Lee): Sept. 16-20; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Harvey Reeves, Bethel Church, New Albany, evangelist; Mitch Robbins, Tupelo, music leader; Don Sparks, pastor.

Calvary, Columbus (Lowndes): Sept. 15-19; Sun., 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Hueston Adkins, pastor, Woodville Heights, Jackson, evangelist; James S. Young, minister of music and education, Calvary, West Point, music; Roy D. Hawkins, pastor.

Freedom, Laurel: Sept. 15-20; Nelson Crozier, First Church of Sharon, Laurel, evangelist; Jimmie Walters, Freedom Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; R. Tracy Hipp, pastor.

Bovina Church, Vicksburg (Warren): Sept. 15-19; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Alton Thompson, Dunn, La., evangelist; Daryl Robertson, Winsboro, La., music; James Busby is pastor.

Parkhill, Jackson: Sept. 15-18; Matt Buckles, pastor of Crossview Church, Brandon, and consultant with Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Jim Chance, Jackson, music; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services, 7 nightly; covered-dish dinner served following morning worship; Jimmy Sellers, pastor.

Harlands Creek, Coxburg (Holmes): Sept. 20-22; homecoming activities, Sunday; Dennis Herrington, evangelist; Roger Richardson, pastor.

Puckett (Rankin): Sept. 22-25; Barry Ward, Puckett pastor, evangelist; Richard Sparks Jr., Puckett, music.

Corinth Church, Heidelberg: Sept. 22-26; John Wilton, evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, music; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.

Missionary news

Revival results

First, State Line (Wayne): Aug. 18-23; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., preaching; Wayne Baggett, Quitman, music; 3 professions of faith; 12 rededications; Lavon Crane, pastor.

First, Fannin: July 28-31; J. Garland McKee, director, evangelism department, MBCB, evangelist; Bill Clark, music director; 19 additions, 15 for baptism; Fred Tarpley, pastor.

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Freeling and Betty Clower, missionaries to Peru, are on the field (address: Apartado 3177, Lima, 100 Peru). He is a native of Osyka, Miss. The former Caroline Powell, she was born in Franklinton, La., and considers Osyka her hometown.

Felix and Dene Greer, missionaries to Liberia, are in the States (address: 442 Cummins St., Jackson, Miss. 39204). He was born in New Orleans, and also lived in Vicksburg, Clinton, and Jackson, Miss. She is the former Dene Brummett of Jackson.

David and Robin Johnson, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: Faculty Housing, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Dr., Birmingham, Ala. 35229). He was born in Alabama. She is the former Robin Parks of Columbus, Miss.

Robert and Veronica Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 200, 17600 Tupa, SP, Brazil). He was born in Florence, Ala. She is the former Veronica (Ronnie) Wheeler of Sandersville, Miss.

John and Amy Purl, missionaries to Ghana, are on the field (address: P. O. Box 076, UCC, Cape Coast, Ghana). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Kosciusko, and considers McComb his hometown. The former Amy Perdew, she was born in Kansas City, Mo., and considers McComb her hometown.

Frank and Jerry Anne Pevey, missionaries to Tanzania, are in the States (address: P. O. Box 979, Skene, Miss. 38775). Both are natives of Mississippi.

Philip and Laura Dunaway, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 118 Amberwood, Clinton, Miss. 39056). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Jackson and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. She is the former Laura Lindley of Meridian.

Byron and Dora Harbin, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 1568-A Old Highway 49 East, Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). He was born in Alabama. She is the former Dora Dunkley of McLaurin, Miss.

Steve and Minnie Hicks, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are on the field (address: Admon. #2, Apartado 104, Cd. Satelite, Edo de Mexico, 53102 Mexico). He is a native of Madisonville, La., and she is the former Minnie Greer of Poplarville, Miss.

Juanita Johnston, missionary to Taiwan, is in the States (address: 1311 Johnston Dr., Anniston, Ala. 36201). Born in Mobile, she also lived in Yazoo City, Miss., while growing up.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal (Lebanon): enrollment, 128; average attendance, 100; Emmett Boone is pastor.

Correction

In the Sept. 5 issue of the Baptist Record, an article entitled, "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" was incorrectly credited to Durell Young, minister of music and youth at Friendship Church, Grenada. The article was written by Guy Hughes, pastor at Friendship Church. We regret the error.



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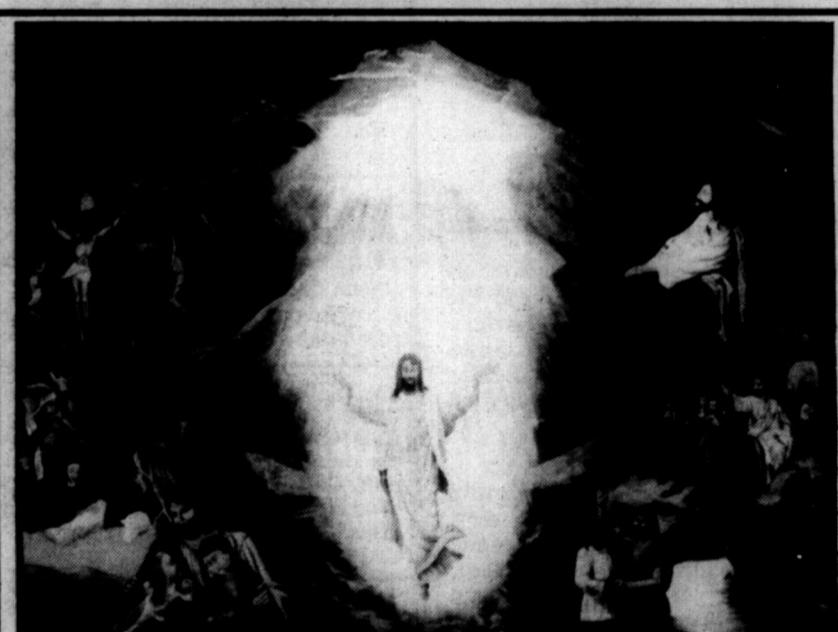
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Marketing termed a must to reach the unchurched

By Chip Alford

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The research is clear — America is losing confidence in the institutional church.

Studies by California-based Barna Research Group and other opinion polls have shown Americans are becoming increasingly self-centered, and, therefore, less likely to join churches or other organizations that require significant commitments. Denominational loyalty is waning, and a growing number of Americans are expressing a religious independence, "decoupling" faith from church involvement.

To enhance their image and attract unchurched people, churches must learn to "market" themselves to their communities, according to Gary Hardin, editor of Growing Churches magazine.

"We just assume that people know who we are, where we are, and what we do. But in many cases, that just isn't true," Hardin said. Churches must learn the principles of good public relations "to help correct the misconceptions people have about us."

Hardin, a staff member in the Sunday School Board's Church Administration Department, led the seminar, "Imaging Your Church," during Bible-Preaching-Administration Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center Aug. 3-10. He shared with pastors, deacons, and other church leaders, "20 Ways Churches are Attracting People Today."

They included giving people options by offering Sunday School and worship services at different times and in different formats, improving preschool and children's ministries, developing direct mail and telemarketing campaigns, media (television, radio, and newspaper) advertising, target group outreach, and the development of ethnic ministries.

Other ideas included "enlarging the cafeteria" — the "menu" of programs and activities the church is offering, holding additional Bible studies apart from the traditional Sunday School hour, giving greater attention to discipleship and sponsoring special events, such as musicals and family ministry conferences.

But Hardin said the quality and variety of a church's programs and activities are only two of several factors which create its image. Also important are church members' attitudes toward the unchurched, the location and quality of the church facilities, and the church leaders' and members' philosophy of ministry.

Advertising, Hardin said, should be used only as a "supplement" to personal outreach and a friendly attitude toward visitors by both church members and leaders.

"If you don't have a friendly church, \$50,000 worth of television ads won't change anything for you," he said.

"You don't have to have a lot of money to be effective in marketing your church," Hardin said. He shared six low-cost actions any church can take to improve its image:

- Create an "inviting" mentality among members and leaders, encouraging them to invite friends and associates to church.

- Provide a broad-based program of ministries and activities.

- Raise the "thermostat" on church leaders' levels of friendliness.

- Build a quality Sunday School program.

- Find the most effective and least threatening way to recognize visitors. Different methods work for different churches, he said.

- Plan quality worship services. "Your church's worship service is its best time for positive public relations," he said.

With a public increasingly skeptical of the relevance of validity of churches, Hardin said it is more important than ever for Christians to live what they believe.

"We need to live out our Christianity with passion and let the world know that self-sacrifice and service to others for Christ's sake really makes a difference."

Alford writes for BSSB.

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Names in the news

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, ordained Billy Joe Loyd Jr. into the gospel ministry on Sept. 1. The ordination message was preached by James L. Travis of Blue Mountain. Billy Joe is now pastor at First Church, Burnsville, Tishomingo County.

A husband-wife team, both faculty members of Southwestern Seminary, will perform in a joint vocal-piano recital at Mississippi College on Sept. 24. The 8:15 performance in Aven Auditorium on campus is open to the public free of charge. Robert Carl Smith and his wife, Lynda Poston-Smith, will be the guest performers. They have appeared together throughout the South and Southwest and in West Germany. She is a lyric soprano and instructor in voice. He is chairman of the Department of Piano at the seminary.

Homecomings

Bethel, Drew (Sunflower): Sept. 15; 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing; Edgar McDaniel, Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland, guest speaker; Tom McLaughlin, pastor.

Gamali Road, Greenville (formerly Northside): Sept. 15; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; preaching, 11; M.C. Barton, former pastor, will bring message; followed by covered dish luncheon and afternoon singing.

Schlater (Leflore): Sept. 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; H.D. Smith Jr., evangelist; James Smith, music.

New Hope Church, Meridian: Sept. 15; 10:30 a.m.; Howard Catledge, Meridian, guest speaker; dinner on grounds following service; afternoon singing, 2 p.m.; no night services; Cheryl Ann Whitehead, minister of music, New Hope Church, music; Mike Everett, pastor.

Eastside, Pearl: Sept. 15; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Howard Benton, former pastor and now pastor of Johns Church will conduct 11 a.m. service; John Yates, music evangelist, will lead singing and present a puppet ventriloquist show for youth; lunch will be served on grounds and church history will be presented.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth (Alcorn): Sept. 15; Kara Blackard, pastor, preaching; fellowship meal; afternoon singing.

Hope Church, Philadelphia (Neshoba): Sept. 22; begins 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; note burning for gymnasium; afternoon singing, 1:30, featuring "Sonrise" and "Freedom"; no night services; Erin McNair, McLaurin Hts., Pearl, guest singer; Kiely D. Young, pastor, FBC, Greenville, guest speaker; James H. Young Jr., pastor.

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Elijah confronts Baal worship

By Randy W. Turner
I Kings 17:1-18:46

Bible study is always so much better when you allow yourself to read the Word of God live and in color. Let the words of the scripture become reality. Use your imagination to transport yourself back in time to actually be present at the events that you are reading about in the Bible. The events of I King 17 and 18 have always captivated me. My imagination has often run wild as to what it must have been like on Mount Carmel that day as well as being around for the events



Turner

that led up to the great dhowdown between Jehovah and Baal, Elijah and the prophets of the idol.

I. Elijah and the Drought (I Kings 17:1-24). Elijah, representing the living God, spoke the word and there was no dew or rain for several

BIBLE BOOK

years. Even in the midst of the great drought God took care of his prophet Elijah. Elijah was provided everything he needed, through others, at the hand of the living God. God never has and never will call a servant to a task without equipping him with what it takes to accomplish it.

II. Elijah Demands An Audience With Ahab (I Kings 18:1-16). For three years Ahab had searched high and low for Elijah. Can you imagine his surprise when Elijah came to him through Obadiah. Obadiah was a devoted follower of the Lord. Once when Queen Jezebel had tried to kill all the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had hidden one hundred of them in caves and fed them bread and water.

Elijah instructed Obadiah to go to the king to say that he was here. Though Obadiah was frightened he had Elijah's word that he would be safe and protected. When Ahab received the word from Obadiah that Elijah had come, he went out to meet him. Ahab accused Elijah of

being the one who brought disaster but Elijah turned it on him and said that it was he himself who had brought disaster upon Israel. It was his refusing to obey the Lord and worshipping Baal instead that had brought disaster on Israel. Elijah challenged Ahab to bring all the people of Israel to Mount Carmel with all the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah. The showdown was at hand.

III. The Battle on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18:17-40). It was agreed that the god who sent fire to consume the altar would be worshipped as the true god. All was made ready and the prophets of Baal went first. They begged and pleaded with their god to send fire but he was silent.

Elijah began to taunt them. He suggested they cry louder. They soon cut themselves and lay in their own blood. It must have been a pitiful sight. But then Elijah stepped forward. The altar was saturated with water to further prove Jehovah's power. Then he began to pray. He mustered all the faith within him and then

asked God to prove himself.

Suddenly a great ball of fire from heaven fell upon the altar and consumed it. It was not just a spark that ignited a flame that eventually burned it up, but a flash of fire that revealed unmistakably the power of God. The prophets of Baal fell down and worshipped Jehovah.

IV. The Drought Is Broken (I Kings 18:41-46). Once again Elijah prayed and soon the sky was black with clouds and a heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm. Elijah's confrontation of Baal worship declares that God calls all persons to place their faith in him alone. There are so many great lessons we learn through this vivid passage of scripture. Among these lessons are these: we are never closer to defeat than in our moments of greatest victory; we are never as alone as we may feel; God is always there. Although we may wish to do amazing miracles for God, we should instead focus on having a relationship with him. The real miracle of Elijah's life was his personal relationship with God.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

Proclaiming

the Good News: mission

By Kiely D. Young

Acts 13:1-3,13-52

"Where two or more are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). There was a prayer meeting of five in Antioch in which God began the modern mission movement (Acts 13:1). Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul were fasting and praying to determine the next step God would have them take in spreading the gospel. In Acts 13, we learn the immediate answer to their prayer.



Young

THE ORDINATION OF BARNABAS AND SAUL (13:2-3)

"The Holy Ghost said, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.' " God selected two from the five in the prayer meeting at Antioch to begin his missions endeavor. God is always faithful to answer the prayers of his people. He was ready to call those with a willing heart. The remain-

UNIFORM

ing three recognized the call of Barnabas and Saul. "When they had fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."

God is still in the process of calling out the called. It is a joy for a church to recognize the hand of God on one of its own. This is a sign that God is working among his people to nurture and grow his church for future generations.

It is shortly after this setting apart that Saul becomes known as Paul (19:9).

THE EXHORTATION OF PAUL (13:16-41)

This is the first recorded sermon of Paul in the book of Acts. Paul gives a very natural progression of the history of God's people in the revelation of his gospel message. God chose, God exalted, God brought out, God destroyed, God divided, God gave, God removed, God raised up—the story runs. It can be divided into four sections for easy understanding.

1. Preparation (13:16-22). Paul reviewed the history of Israel from Moses and the deliverance from Egypt on to the election of Saul as king and the emergence of David.

2. Confirmation (13:23-29). God chose the line of David to raise up the Savior of Israel. The leaders of Israel did not recognize Jesus as Savior and ultimately opposed him. Yet, in their rejection, they fulfilled prophecy in putting Jesus to death.

3. Affirmation (13:30-37). God affirmed man's salvation in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. God fulfilled the promise he had made to the forefathers to raise up a Savior in whom there was no corruption.

4. Proclamation (13:38-41). Paul proclaimed to the brethren justification from sin could be attained by their faith in Jesus, not by works of the law of Moses. Paul wanted them to know that through faith in Jesus Christ they could have two blessings the law could never provide: the forgiveness of their sins and justification before God.

Paul's sermon contained the whole gospel message: God's perfect love in Jesus, man's rejection in sin, God's provision in Jesus, man's redemption through repentance and faith in Jesus. The message never changes, even though the audience may demand a different strategy.

A CONFRONTATION WITH GOOD NEWS (13:42-52)

Among those hearing Paul's sermon were Jews and Gentiles. When the Jews saw the response of the people to the message of Paul, they became filled with envy (v. 45) and spoke against the words of Barnabas and Paul. But Barnabas and Paul boldly responded, "It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles" (v. 46). God had appointed Barnabas and Paul to be a light of the Gentiles . . . for salvation unto the ends of the earth. The response of the Gentiles was wonderful. ". . . They were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord" (v. 48). The word of the Lord then began to spread throughout the region.

Paul and Barnabas exemplified for us our responsibility in sharing the word of God. Tell the whole gospel, regardless of the audience, with love and compassion and leave the results to God. You will surely have opposition, but the word of God will not return void.

Young is pastor, First, Greenville.

Prayer qualities: perseverance, faith, humility

By Don Dobson
Luke 18:1-14

How are you characterized? In other words, how do people see you? Our characters, our inner dimensions, say so much about us. We often describe people by their qualities. We say, "He has a good moral character," or, "She is an honest person." These are characteristics of an individual.

Just as individuals can be characterized, so can our prayer life. Instead of asking how are you characterized, let's ask about our prayer lives.

In our lesson today, Christ brings to light three different qualities that should characterize our praying.



Dobson

LIFE AND WORK

I. We should pray with perseverance (vv. 1-7)

A good old-fashioned definition of perseverance is "to never quit." The widow in these verses underlines this definition. Even though the judge constantly refused to grant her petition, she persevered. The judge eventually came around to her way of thinking. She did not despair. There is always the ever-present danger of losing heart when we perceive that God is not going to answer our prayers. Christ understood human nature, thus he gives one of his "how much more" parables to encourage and strengthen us. God does hear and God will answer. Just because he chooses not to answer in our timetable does not warrant our falling away. Be constant. Persevere.

II. We should pray with faith (v. 8)

The second quality that should characterize our prayer life is faith. Sometimes it's hard to find a good working definition for this characteristic. The New Testament word is defined as a firm persuasion. Christ tells his followers that faith is a needed commodity in the prayer life of an individual. As we pray, we accept the fact that God's will is going to be done. Our faith tells us that whatever God wills, we will accept. To be certain, we need not use our faith as a type of leverage to convince God of certain things. We're not to flippantly ask, and then believe in faith that it will happen. The parable tells us that a widow had faith in her pleadings and in the eventual justice of the judge. We, too, should have a fervent faith in our righteous Judge, that he will hear and respond equitably.

III. We should pray with humility (vv. 9-14)

The third quality that Jesus describes is humility. What a stark contrast to our modern society! The world teaches us to call attention to ourselves. Tell everyone that you're number one. Jesus says to lose yourself in quiet humility.

In the second part of our lesson, Christ tells us that we should never turn prayer into a self-righteous expression of contempt for others. The Pharisee did just this type of praying. He used his "time" with God to condemn others.

Christ also tells us to express our true humility by confessing our sins, and pleading for God's forgiveness. There is nothing that will humble a person faster, and be more beneficial than a conscious realization, and repentance of his sins. God has truly granted mankind a blessing by allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives through conviction.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

Curbing alcohol in sports: What can Baptists do?

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP) — What can Southern Baptists do to help curb the alcohol industry's influence on sporting events? Legislation and education are two avenues of influence named by Southern Baptist leaders.

Robert Parham, director of the new Baptist Center for Ethics, urged Baptists to support two pieces of legislation currently being considered by the U.S. Congress. They are House Resolution 1443, known as "The Sen-

sible Advertising and Family Education Act," and Senate Bill 664, the "Alcohol Beverage Advertising Act."

If enacted, the bills would require that health warnings appear at the end of all broadcast commercials and on all print advertisements for alcoholic beverages, Parham said. The five rotating warnings include messages about avoiding alcohol during pregnancy and when using other drugs, that drinking impairs one's ability to operate motor vehicles, that

alcohol may be addictive, and that drinking is illegal for individuals under the age of 21.

"The bill is overdue and urgently needed," said Parham. "Alcohol is the nation's No. 1 drug problem. It is a gateway drug for the nation's youth. In fact, it is their drug of choice."

"The warnings would impact those who drink the most beer and are more vulnerable to its adverse effects, that population being young males between the ages of 18 and 24," he add-

ed. "They represent the greatest portion of beer drinkers and are the most avid sports enthusiasts."

"Clearly, the warnings will strip the alcohol ads of the fantasy and misinformation that they sell," he said.

Concerning education, Baptists must be taught about the effects of drinking, said Greg Fiebig, director of development for the Christian Civic Foundation, a Missouri-based multidenominational agency that combats alcohol abuse.

Referring to a 1985 Gallup poll which found that 45% of Southern Baptists drink alcohol, Fiebig said, "When we start working with churches and individuals, we have to first educate them on what the effects of alcohol are on the system."

The root problem of alcohol abuse involves the inability of people "to deal with problems, poor self-esteem, and inability to communicate effectively with one another," said Fiebig.

capsules

SCRIPTURES DISTRIBUTED TO MOSCOW TROOPS DURING CRISIS: NEW YORK (ABS) — Bible Society personnel in Moscow distributed more than 6,000 New Testaments to Soviet soldiers at the height of tension during the recent coup attempt in the Soviet Union, Aug. 20. Staff of the Bible Society in the Soviet Union (BSSU) and volunteers offered army troops New Testaments. BSSU's Father Borisov, a Moscow city councilman, led a group of Christians with 4,500 New Testaments to the troops who sealed off Red Square. Anatoly Rudenko, BSSU director, took another group to the area around the Parliament building of the Russian Federation. The New Testaments were given only to soldiers poised to attack coup resisters, and all but one officer allowed their troops to accept the books.

FBC JACKSONVILLE TO BUILD \$15.6 MILLION AUDITORIUM: JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Members of First Church of Jacksonville voted July 28 to proceed with construction of a 9,000-seat auditorium, which will cost \$15.6 million and be paid for in cash. The structure will cover an entire city block in downtown Jacksonville, adjacent to the present 3,500-seat sanctuary, which was built in 1976. The Jacksonville church is one of the largest in the country, with a total membership of about 20,000. Co-pastors of the church are Jerry Vines, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Homer Lindsay Jr.

A DAY OFF WORK FOR CHRISTMAS: KATMANDU, Nepal (EP) — The Hindu kingdom of Nepal, sandwiched between India and China in the Himalayan Mountains, has "come one step closer to allowing Christian total religious freedom by allowing them a day off work to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ," according to a report from Gospel for Asia (GFA). After centuries of persecuting Christians, democratic uprisings led to the release of more than 100 Christians who had been "imprisoned for their faith in wretched, dungeon-like prisons. Their crime was sharing their faith with others." But now Nepal, which once boasted it was the only Hindu kingdom on earth, has begun to adopt a more tolerant attitude toward other faiths. This began nearly a year ago, when King Birendra set forth a new constitution that allowed various religious groups to assemble and have freedom of expression. The document stopped short of allowing religious groups to convert others, however. "This remains an item for prayer," according to GFA, which supports 79 Nepali missionaries who are working to win their own people to the Lord.

ARAB BAPTIST PASTOR DENIED ENTRY TO ISRAEL: WASHINGTON (ABP) — Arab Baptist pastor Alex Awad again has been denied a permanent visa and work permit to serve a Palestinian church in the West Bank of Israel. Awad, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, has petitioned the Israeli government for more than two years to obtain a visa so he can return to his homeland and serve as pastor of East Jerusalem Baptist Church. He also wants to teach at Bethlehem Bible College. Israeli officials did not give a reason for the latest rejection. At the request of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Joint Committee has been working nearly two years to help Awad secure his visa.

REVIVAL SWEEPS BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION: NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — A spirit of revival swept through more than 6,000 delegates and visitors at the July 21-25 Free Will Baptist National Convention in Charleston, W. Va., according to organizers. Delegates to the 55th annual convention found themselves in an hour-long altar service which resulted in 10 calls to the mission field, two calls to preach, 23 rededications, and three conversions. Veterans convention-goers say they had never seen anything like it in 30 years of conventions. Delegates to the convention adopted an \$11.2 million 1992 budget, including \$4.4 million for foreign missions. Delegates passed a resolution opposing abortion, and asked members to write to elected officials to inform them of that opposition.

FMB HOSTS GLOBAL MISSIONS WEEK AT N.O. SEMINARY: NEW ORLEANS — A special foreign mission rally will be the highlight of the first global missions week ever to be held in New Orleans. Hosted by New Orleans Seminary Sept. 17-19, the week will be a time for area ministers and churches to meet and talk with Foreign Mission Board personnel, global strategists, and missionaries. Sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, the event is open to the community and area churches, and will feature special chapel sessions, displays, a mission reception, mission seminars, and a foreign missions rally Thursday evening in Leavell Chapel for the New Orleans area. In addition, the seminary's cafeteria will highlight different countries with native recipes and special decorations all week. For more information, contact Don Stewart, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126; or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3583.

ETHNIC GROUPS SHARE, CELEBRATE DIVERSITY: GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Through separate services, seven Southern Baptist groups were able to worship freely in their own styles while in joint services. They celebrated their unity during the Conference for Small Sunday Schools held Aug. 19-23 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Although ethnic and language sessions have been a feature of the conference for several years, the 1991 conference was the first to include separate worship services for Anglo, American Indian, African-American, Hispanic, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean participants. The conference was sponsored jointly by the Sunday School Board's Sunday School division and the special ministries department which includes language church development/new work, Black church development, and Hispanic church development sections. With a total registration of more than 1,300 participants including youth, children, and preschoolers, about half of the approximately 830 leadership conference participants were Anglos or represented ethnic groups for whom there were no special conferences. Hispanic and Black leadership conference participants totalled approximately 160 each. Approximately 60 participants attended the leadership conference sessions for American Indian, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Rural Missouri church calls unordained woman pastor Moore

By Trennis Henderson

MIAMI, Mo. (ABP) — Miami, Mo., a tiny community near the Missouri River, is not often the site of trend-setting activities. Yet the members of First Church of Miami have quietly accomplished what may be a first in Missouri Baptist life.

First Baptist members recently extended a unanimous call to a woman, Rita Moore, to serve as their pastor. Following several weeks as the church's supply preacher, Moore officially became the congregation's pastor the first week of August.

Moore, 47, graduated last year from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City with a master of divinity degree. Her husband, Jerry, who is pursuing a music degree at Midwestern, is serving as Miami's volunteer music director.

Rita Moore's primary ministry experience has involved leading weekday worship services for the past four years at a Kansas City retirement center. She is neither licensed nor ordained to the ministry.

Ordination "raises more red flags than the pastorate does," she explained. "I haven't pushed it and I won't push it."

"She preaches the Word out of the Bible and that's the main thing," explained Tom Fisher, one of First Baptist's three deacons. Fisher said church members accepted the couple from the start. "If they preach the Word, that's all we're after."

How does the tiny church like the distinction of hiring Missouri Baptists' first woman pastor? "We need to be No. 1 in something sometime," Fisher responded.

According to Betty Winstead McGary, former president of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry, there currently are about 11 or 12 women pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention and about 30 women

who are associate pastors.

The church was not seeking to make a political statement with its actions, deacon Fisher insisted. "You've got to leave politics out of a Christian church," he said. "A church won't grow and Southern Baptists won't grow as long as there is politics. In this little church, all you find is love and friendliness."

From a practical perspective, Fisher acknowledged it is difficult to attract a pastor to a small church in a small community. Miami has 172 residents. First Baptist has 16 resident members. "We're a small church and we can't afford to pay much," Fisher pointed out.

For Rita Moore, who is legally blind but "not very limited," accepting the Miami pastorate "is just what the Lord has called me to do. A lot of people expect me to be making a (political) statement, but I'm not."

Growing up in a "very, very conservative" Southern Baptist home, Moore said that when she first sensed a call to ministry, "I assumed it would be missions."

She and her husband applied for appointment as missionaries through the Foreign Mission Board, but their application was rejected. Rita Moore cited "a combination of circumstances," including her limited vision and the age of their children.

"It never occurred to me that I would be called into the pastorate until the Foreign Mission Board turned me down," she reflected. Even when she "could hear the Lord calling me into the pastorate," she said, "I ignored it for a year."

The Moores were members of Covenant Church in Kansas City before she accepted the call to Miami. At Covenant Church, Jerry served as music director and Rita worked in the

church's service center to the poor.

"She was an effective minister here," said Covenant pastor Darrell Rickard. "They were both very effective. They're sound theologically and conservatively, I think."

Rita Moore "is especially adept at theology," her former pastor added. "I thought her real career goal was in the area of teaching, but she didn't hide it when she felt like she was feeling called to be a pastor."

Rickard declined to voice a personal opinion about Moore accepting the pastorate of the Miami church, but he noted, "if we believe in the autonomy of the local church, we have to leave it up to them."

Neal Turnbaugh, director of missions for Saline Association, of which First Church is a member, expressed a similar view. "My personal opinion doesn't matter," he remarked. "It's a local church decision and I will stand between them and anybody who tries to make life miserable for them. Anybody who tries to cause commotion would be out of bounds."

Accepting her call to the ministry gave Rita Moore "a sense of relief," said husband Jerry. "I have seen the frustration she has gone through. I know the gifts she has."

Jerry Moore noted that the "typical" pastor's spouse in a rural church often plays the piano and leads the music. "That's exactly what I'm doing and it is in line with my calling."

Moore said he also reads the Scripture during his wife's sermons, since choriotinitus has left her with only peripheral vision. Each week, she memorizes either her sermon manuscript or an outline of it. "We work as a team — like a double-barrel shotgun," Moore said. "So far, it's been a great experience."

Henderson is managing editor of Missouri WORD & WAY.

Christian musicians DeGarmo, Key featured, Broadman youth video series

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE — An old form of idolatry is again gaining ground in America, and the 1990s may very well be the heyday for this well-intended, but misguided movement.

"I really believe that the 1990s will be the decade of the environmental generation. And we that don't have the environment as our God will be looked down upon," said Eddie DeGarmo, half of the contemporary Christian group DeGarmo and Key.

While concern for the environment is important, DeGarmo said Christians should be careful not to become involved in idolatrous "earth worship" often linked to the New Age Movement.

"I'm as concerned about the environment as the next guy, but (that concern) certainly doesn't equal my faith in Christ," explained DeGarmo, a member of Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn.

DeGarmo and Key discuss the New Age Movement in "What's New About the New Age," one of three new Broadman videos included in a youth-oriented series titled, "The Beat." Other videos, also hosted by contemporary Christian musicians, include: "Who Is God? And What Has He To Do With Me?", featuring Russ Taff; and "Where Do I Fit In," hosted by Renee Garcia. All three were originally aired on the Baptist Telecommunication Network.

In their video, DeGarmo and Key explore New Age thought through testimony, drama, and Bible study. Two of the duo's music videos, "666," and "Feels Good to Be Forgiven," also are included.

One of the false doctrines of the New Age Movement is that humanity is "one with Mother Earth," DeGarmo and Key explain in the video. Other misguided teachings of the movement include: all religions are different paths to the same truth, God is found by looking within (human divinity), and there is no such thing as sin or death.

The video encourages teen-age and college-age viewers to evaluate New Age influences in their lives and offer suggestions on how to share the gospel with others caught in the deception of New Age thought.

The group interaction included in the videos make them ideal for youth group meetings, retreats, mid-week Bible studies, and lock-ins, McNorrill said.

In the video, "Who Is God? And What Has He To Do With Me?", Grammy Award-winner Russ Taff introduces viewers to the fundamental process of contemplating God. The content is designed to help youth understand what a proper relationship with God involves and encourage them to make commitments to develop that relationship. Renee Gar-

cia, known for her unique brand of urban/contemporary pop music, explores the Christian view of healthy relationships and group affiliations in the video, "Where Do I Fit In?"

Alford writes for BSSB.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE ST. SUITE 401
NASHVILLE, TN 37205

Baptist Record

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205